Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

What is claimed is:

1-13 (canceled).

14. (previously presented) A method for estimating an image illuminant, the method comprising:

forming a matrix of monomial basis functions in the color coordinates of each of a plurality of candidate illuminants;

analyzing an image in relation to said plurality of candidate illuminants to determine a plurality of match scores for said plurality of candidate illuminants;

fitting a surface to said plurality of match scores, said surface representing illuminant values other than said candidate illuminants; and

determining a point on said surface, said point corresponding to the data representing a likely illuminant for said image.